

RECOGNIZING GARY RALPH  
VANCOUR

**HON. WILLIAM L. OWENS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 8, 2014*

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Gary Ralph VanCour. For many years, Mr. VanCour has given his time and energy to promote his community and encourage its success.

Mr. VanCour has served for the past seven years as Co-Chair for the Battle of Plattsburgh Commemoration Committee, working diligently to promote the Commemoration and ensure that it continues to be an event of the highest quality. As a member of the War of 1812 Bicentennial Council: Lake Champlain Region, Mr. VanCour has worked with the Adirondack Coast Visitors Bureau to promote heritage tourism for the region.

Mr. VanCour is also a retired Social Studies teacher and Department chair for the Beekmantown Central School District in New York State. He served as President of the New York State Social Studies Supervisory Association and is currently the Town of Beekmantown Historian. He is widely respected for his work in the field of education, having led efforts to align the Beekmantown Central School curriculum with New York State Social Studies Standards.

Mr. VanCour is a father and grandfather as well as a musician and community volunteer. Each of us can learn from his extraordinary dedication to serving his community.

CONGRATULATING BRADEN  
MUSCARELLO ON RECEIVING  
PRESTIGIOUS SCHOLARSHIP

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 8, 2014*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Braden Muscarello for being awarded a Kennedy-Lugar YES Abroad scholarship to study in Oman during the 2014–2015 academic year. Braden, a sophomore at William P. Clements High School in Sugar Land, Texas, is one of only 65 American students selected to serve as YES Abroad youth ambassador to educate other countries about American culture.

As a YES Abroad student, Braden will help foster mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of Oman to promote friendly and peaceful relations. She will live with a host family in Muscat, attend a local high school and participate in activities with her Omani peers. Not only will she educate others about American culture, she'll also bring back her own experiences of Omani society and values and help build a social foundation for the development of a strong bilateral relationship between our two countries.

I wish Braden the best of luck as she studies in Oman this year. On behalf of the residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations to Braden Muscarello for earning a Kennedy-Lugar YES Abroad scholarship.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. GENE GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 8, 2014*

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to note that while I was in Washington for much of Friday, August 1, 2014, I was unable to vote on legislation considered that day due to previously scheduled events in the district.

If I had been able to vote that day, I would have voted as follows:

On the Motion on Ordering the Previous Question on H. Res. 700, roll No. 474, I would have voted "no."

On consideration of H. Res. 700, a resolution to waive certain requirements under Clause 6(a) of House Rule XIII, roll No. 475, I would have voted "no."

On the Motion on Ordering the Previous Question on H. Res. 710, roll No. 476, I would have voted "no."

On consideration of H. Res. 710, a resolution providing the rule for H.R. 5230 and H.R. 5272, roll No. 477, I would have voted "no."

On Passage of H.R. 5230, Supplemental Appropriations Related to the Humanitarian Crisis at the Southwest Border, roll No. 478, I would have voted "no."

On Passage of H.R. 5272, to prohibit certain actions with respect to deferred action for aliens not lawfully present in the United States, roll No. 479, I would have voted "no."

On Concurring to the Senate Amendments to H.J. Res. 76, Emergency Supplemental Funding to Israel for the Iron Dome Defense System, roll No. 480, I would have voted "yes."

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL  
DEBT

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 8, 2014*

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,756,856,045,819.45. We've added \$7,129,978,996,906.37 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$7.1 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

HONORING MS. SUSAN HAMMER

**HON. ZOE LOFGREN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 8, 2014*

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Ms. Susan Hammer and congratulate her on her Cornerstone of the Arts Award, a timely and well-deserved honor.

From the beginning of her career in public service, Ms. Hammer worked tirelessly to link San Jose's civic future to the continued growth and development of its arts and cultural insti-

tutions. Indeed, she entered public life in 1969 by founding a community art museum that became the San Jose Museum of Art. She was instrumental in saving the historic building now home to its administrative offices from destruction.

Ms. Hammer's unwavering support of the arts continued throughout her illustrious career. As the 62nd Mayor of San Jose, Ms. Hammer led the creation of San Jose's first cultural plan, which served as the blueprint for the evolution of the Office of Cultural Affairs and led to arts education reform. Ms. Hammer created San Jose's first cultural tourism program, worked to build The Tech as a museum of national stature, and fought to complete the Guadalupe River Park. Ms. Hammer made sure that The Rep got a permanent home in San Jose. Together with the San Jose State University President, Ms. Hammer developed the idea of creating a joint library and was part of a committee that raised \$16.5 million for the completion of San Jose's stunning Martin Luther King Jr. Library.

Ms. Hammer is a trailblazer when it comes to the development of San Jose area's thriving community and dynamic culture. As Mayor, she focused on affordable housing, child care, education, the arts, and the revitalization of the San Jose Downtown.

Ms. Hammer is truly the "cornerstone" of the San Jose arts community and sets the highest standard for public service. Unsurprisingly, in her retirement, Ms. Hammer continues to be civically involved and active in community and educational organizations.

I wish to congratulate Ms. Susan Hammer on her Cornerstone of the Arts Award and express my gratitude for her exceptional leadership and lasting impact on the San Jose art and cultural landscape.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL JOB  
CORPS ASSOCIATION'S 50TH AN-  
NIVERSARY

**HON. DANIEL T. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 8, 2014*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in recognizing and congratulating the National Job Corps Association on their 50th Anniversary. Over the course of 50 years, millions of at-risk youth have been forever changed by Job Corps' comprehensive residential, academic and career preparation programs.

In my hometown, the Flint Genesee Job Corps Center provides a vital service to our community by serving hundreds of disadvantaged youth between 16 and 24 years of age, inclusive, by providing high school diplomas and career technical education to young men and women.

In addition to academic and employment training, these Job Corps Centers throughout the country provide social skills training and other services to empower young men and women to obtain and hold a job, enroll in advanced training, attend college, or enter the Armed Forces to defend the interest of the United States around the world.

It is timely and appropriate that we join Flint and Genesee County in celebrating the National Job Corps Association and its accomplishments, including reducing the cycle of